

Serial No.: 10/626,253

RD-28,667-3

Amdt. Dated: February 23, 2005

Reply to Office action of November 30, 2004.

REMARKS

In the office action mailed November 30, 2004 the Examiner rejected claims 32-44. The November 30, 2004 Office action has been carefully considered. The Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the application by the Examiner in light of the above amendments and the following remarks.

35 USC § 102 Rejections

The Examiner rejected claims 32, 35-36, 40-41 and 44 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by Hwang et al. (U.S. Patent 6,383,953; hereinafter called "Hwang"). The rejection of claims 32, 35-36, 40-41 and 44 is respectfully traversed.

Claim 32 has been amended to recite, "... wherein said at least one common reactant gas injector comprising a tubular -walled structure having two linear portions parallel to each other and two end portions connecting the linear portions is disposed between anodes of the plasma sources and the substrate and is circumferentially disposed with respect to the plasma sources...".

The Applicant respectfully submits that, especially as amended, the claim 32 recites patentable subject matter over Hwang et al. Hwang et al. cannot be read to anticipate the subject matter of currently amended claim 32. Applicant therefore submits that since amended claim 32 recites patentable subject matter, all claims dependent from it are likewise allowable. Therefore, the Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of claims 32, 35-36 and 40-41 be withdrawn..

Independent claim 44 has been amended to recite, "... wherein said at least one common reactant gas injector comprising a tubular -walled structure having two linear portions parallel to each other and two end portions connecting the linear portions is disposed between the anodes of the plasma sources and the substrate and is circumferentially disposed with respect to the plasma sources...".

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The Applicant respectfully submits that Hwang does not anticipate the subject matter of currently amended claim 44. Applicant therefore submits that especially as amended claim 44 recites patentable subject matter. The Applicant thus respectfully requests that the rejection of claim 44 be withdrawn.

35 USC § 103 Rejections

The Examiner rejected claims 33 and 34 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Hwang in view of Knowles et al. (U.S. Patent 5,560,779; hereinafter "Knowles").

The Examiner rejected claims 37, 39, and 42 and 43 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Hwang.

The Applicant urge that currently amended claim 32 is in condition for allowance over Hwang for the reasons discussed above. Thus, the Applicant respectfully submits that claims 33, 34, 37, 39, 42 and 43, which depend on claim 32, are also in condition for allowance over Hwang in view of the instant specification.

In view of the foregoing, the Applicant respectfully submits that each of claims 32-44 is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are respectfully requested.

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Should the examiner believe that anything further is needed to place the application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the Applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number below.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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February 23, 2005  
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